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# The Communist Party of the Philippines condemns U.S. machinations to criminalize and persecute as "terrorists" the CPP-NPA, Comrade Sison and other legitimate revolutionaries and progressives

Statement of the Central Committee Communist Party of the Philippines 21 Septembre 2002

s the world's rogue superpower and biggest terrorist, the US has arrogated to itself the power to unilaterally unleash war and rain death and devastation on other countries and peoples. It shamelessly bullies the international community, destabilizes other states and whole regions, and threatens world peace.

US imperialism is the biggest terrorist force that has ever afflicted the Filipino people. It has yet to answer for the brutal war of aggression against the Filipino people from 1899 to 1914. Its war crimes include killing, torture, forced mass evacuations and other repressive measures which claimed the lives of more than a million Filipinos, mostly unarmed civilians. Its bloody conquest of the Philippines has since paved the way for its daily violence of exploitation and oppression of the Filipino nation, in league with local lackeys.

In the midst of the worsening crisis of the US and world capitalist system, the US is promoting wholesale state terrorism and fascism in the world to

suppress rising social turmoil and revolutionary resurgence. Stricken with paranoia, it is increasing repression in the US itself and is pushing other countries, including its neocolonies, to adopt even more repressive measures against the people, especially migrants. US insistence that the Macapagal-Arroyo regime take on more and more repressive and bellicose measures in the name of "anti-terrorism" is again bringing the Philippines as close as ever to martial law.

The US has grown more and more wary of the revolutionary movement in the Philippines that is today at the forefront of the world anti-imperialist struggle and is gaining ground and threatening the existence of its client state. It is now increasingly intervening directly in the counter-revolutionary war in the country and is using this to intervene in other countries in the region. To justify this, it has ridiculously designated as "foreign terrorist organizations" the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army.

The US is the world's biggest terrorist and yet it has the gall to label as "terrorist" and

sully the fine record of a legitimate and principled revolutionary force that is arousing, organizing and mobilizing the Filipino people in

a resolute struggle for national liberation and democracy against US imperialism, domestic feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism.

In cahoots with the Macapagal-Arroyo puppet regime, the US is making preparations for and legitimizing its outright aggression in the country with such schemes as the Mutual

Logistics and Support

Agreement and endless new versions of Balikatan—this time directed at CPP-NPA territories.

To make way for its aggression in the Philippines, the US is prejudicing the peace process and generating a climate of fear against the members, consultants and staffers and supporters of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace panel. The US has centered its attack on Comrade Jose Ma. Sison, the senior political consultant of the panel. In a US Treasury Department attachment to Executive Order no. 13224 issued in September 26, 2002, US President Bush has specifically included Comrade Sison in the list of "foreign terrorists".

Single-minded in its vehement hatred of revolutionaries, US imperialism is hell bent on suppressing them. US imperialism and its local lackeys know best who are their most resolute and most effective adversaries, unleashing the vilest of propaganda, the dirtiest tricks and the most brutal attacks against them. Among the prime targets today of US imperialism and its puppets are the parties and revolutionaries who are guided by Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, particularly those carrying out and promoting people's war.

Because of his leading influence and significance to the political and social revolutionary movement in the Philippines as well as

internationally, the US is concentrating its most vicious attack on Comrade Sison with the vain hope of decapitating the revolutionary movement in the Philippines and impeding the resurgence of the anti-imperialist and proletarian revolutionary movement to a new and higher level.

Being singled out for exemplary attack by the world superpower serves as an unintended tribute to Comrade Sison's sharpness and resoluteness in exposing US imperialism and its successive

puppet regimes, in serving as a beacon to the national democratic and proletarian revolutionary movement in the Philippines, in reinvigorating the international proletarian revolutionary movement, as well as in supporting the peace process.

The Communist Party of the Philippines greatly values the contributions that Comrade Sison has given and continues to render the Philippine revolutionary movement. The Party recognizes his outstanding revolutionary role and devotion to the proletariat and people, and refutes the US' baseless charge of "terrorist" against him as well as against the Party itself, and the people's army and revolutionary movement led by the Party.

Riding on the US "anti-terrorist" mantra and on antidemocratic and antimigrant trends in the Netherlands and Europe, the Dutch government is doing the dirty work in behalf of the US government against Comrade Sison. It has done so in utter disregard of due process and with disgusting cruelty. Last month it made a cheap device at oppression by freezing his and his wife Juliet's personal accounts which has come from no source other than the Dutch state welfare agency Sociale Zaken. The highest Dutch administrative court, the Raad van State, since 1992 has considered him a political refugee. Guilty thus of double talk, this September 16 the Dutch government downgraded his political refugee status. Immediately, this has deprived him of housing, subsistence and medical support. Moreover, this has threatened his protection by the Refugee Treaty of Geneva and the European Convention from extradition to any country on the pretext of a non-capital criminal charge.

Some prominent Philippine government officials themselves have spilled the beans that the US is set to trump up a criminal complaint against Comrade Sison and on this basis seek his extradition to the US. The Philippine Justice Secretary has certified as far back as 1998 that no criminal charge whatsoever exists against Comrade Sison in the Philippines. The Macapagal-Arroyo regime is still in the process of forging a law specifically against "terrorism" that would target revolutionaries and their supporters much more than bandits and real terrorists. To make up for this lack, it is working to file a charge of rebellion against Comrade Sison in order to prop up

the prospective criminal complaint and request of the US for his extradition.

The US and the puppet Macapagal-Arroyo regime are bent on working out more sinister designs and plots— including the resort to outright violence and other fascist methods—in an effort to suppress the revolutionary movement, Comrade Sison and other revolutionaries and progressives. The European Union has also adopted its own "antiterrorist" measure. On July 15, 2002, the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the European Union promulgated "anti-terrorist" guidelines which severely curtail civil liberties in much the same way as the US Patriot Act. The Party is much concerned about the dangers to Comrade Sison resulting from the devious machinations and work of the US and its allies.

The Party vehemently condemns the US and the puppet Macapagal-Arroyo regime for the blatant designs and machinations at interventionist and fascist schemes directed at the Party, the New People's Army and Comrade Sison, as well as against the sovereign rights and fundamental interests of the Filipino nation and people.

The Party calls on all Filipino patriots and on all freeedom-loving people around the world to protest and fight these designs and schemes, which

are specifically aimed to clear the way for increased outright US aggression against the revolutionary movement and people of the Philippines. The Dutch government should listen to reason and reverse its unjust and cruel acts against Comrade Sison.

The Communist
Party of the Philippines
and the revolutionary
movement it leads shall
never be intimidated by
US military intervention,
threat of aggression and
dirty tricks. The
revolutionary move-



ment in the Philippines has been tempered in life-and-death struggle over so many years and against great adversities. It is resolute as ever in its self-reliant armed revolutionary struggle to attain national liberation and democracy and gain ground for the world proletarian revolution.

The Party's collective leadership effectively operates in the consolidated revolutionary guerilla bases in the Philippines, safely out of the immediate reach and mischief by the US and local reactionary armed forces. Filipino revolutionaries know full

well that the rotten semifeudal and semicolonial system in the country is in terminal crisis and that the US itself has become mired in ever deeper crisis. The Party and the revolutionary movement

are rapidly advancing and are taking advantage of increasingly favourable national and international conditions for the further advance of the revolutionary struggle.



#### A brief chronology

**September 23, 2001** - The US Treasury Department issues Executive Order (EO) 13224 (Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions with Persons who Commit, Threaten to Commit, or Support Terrorism).

July 15, 2002 – The European Union ratifies the text of the first international rules on human rights and measures against "terrorism." The rules provide limits on the rights of those considered "terrorist" and the processes to be used in putting them on trial, including the extradition process in case such a request is received.

August 2, 2002 – US Secretary of State Colin Powell announces that the US government considers the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) as "foreign terrorist organizations." The decision was published in the *Federal Register* in accordance with the Immigration and Nationality Act, which was passed into law as part of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act. He urges all governments to "isolate these terrorist organizations, choke off their financial resources and prevent their movement across international borders."

**August 12, 2002** – Prof. Jose Ma. Sison (Ka Joema), the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA are added to the list of "terrorists" attached to EO 13224.

August 13, 2002 – By virtue of the US' EO 13224, the Dutch government issues a Sanctieregeling Terrorisme 2002 III (Anti-Terrorist Measures). On this basis, Comrade Sison was hurriedly charged with "terrorism" without any basis or explanation. This runs roughshod on Ka Joema's status as a political refugee protected by the Refugee Convention and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (EVRM). Thus, the Dutch government will be treating Comrade Sison as an ordinary criminal, opening him to the possibility of being subjected to criminal trial procedures.

It will be remembered that the Raad van State, the highest administrative court in The Netherlands, has recognized Ka Joema as a political refugee since 1992. This means it has determined that there is basis for extending him protection from persecution and harm by the Philippine government. In 1997, the Dutch government likewise recognized this status. But due to continued pressure from the US and Philippine governments, it refused to grant Ka Joema political asylum and a residence permit in The Netherlands. He has appealed his case before the European Courts of Human Rights since 1998.

August 15, 2002 – the Dutch Finance Ministry freezes the joint bank account of Ka Joema and his wife Julie Sison containing 1,000 euros (P50,000). The Dutch government deposits in this account the welfare funds received by the couple from the Welfare Service and Social Affairs and Employment agencies. It is from this account that the Sison family gets funds for their basic needs such as food, electricity, health insurance, medical and dental treatment and others. The Sisons receive a small allowance because political refugees are not allowed to earn a living.

September 10, 2002 – the Dutch Foreign Minister informs Comrade Sison in writing that the Dutch government was terminating the benefits extended to him by virtue of the Sanctiergeling Terrorisme 2002 III. Among the benefits that have been terminated are allowances for food and other basic needs, housing and health benefits. In an instant, the

Dutch government deprives Ka Joema, Ka Julie and their son Jasm the right to live humanely and with dignity.

He has been given six weeks to ask for "consideration" on humanitarian grounds for the revokation of the prohibitions that have been imposed on him. Ka Joema has rejected this offer because it would be tantamount to agreeing with the trumped-up accusations of terrorism and other unjust and oppressive charges against



### NDFP condemns US "terrorist" tag on the CPP, NPA and Jose Ma. Sison

## Statement of the NDFP Executive Committee September 21, 2002

he National Democratic Front of the Philippines vehemently condemns the United States for its designation of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army as "foreign terrorist organizations" and of Comrade Jose Maria Sison as "terrorist." This move is part and parcel of the US plan to deepen its military intervention in the country as the armed revolutionary movement for genuine national freedom and democracy resurges.

After using the Abu Sayyaf as pretext to directly engage in combat operations, the US now has trained its guns on the revolutionary forces such as the CPP

and NPA as well as patriots like Comrade Sison because of their firm opposition to long-standing US domination in the country.

The US has singled out Comrade Sison. It demanded that the Dutch government freeze his assets—to which the Dutch government readily acquiesced. It now threatens him with extradition and inhumane treatment accorded to suspected "terrorists" now incarcerated in the US.

Equally condemnable is the pupper president Macapagal-Arroyo. Since her US visit in November last year, Macapagal-Arroyo has eagerly danced to the tune of Bush's "war on terrorism." Her declaration of "all-out war" against the NPA in August was part of the script prepared by US Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell who, few days later, declared the designation of the CPP and NPA as "foreign terrorist organizations." She and her pro-US military generals gleefully clapped their hands when the Dutch government followed the US lead in treating Sison as "terrorist".

The NDF is gravely concerned with the Dutch government's cooperation with the US to persecute Comrade Sison. It has frozen his personal bank account which contains nothing but social welfare aid, depriving him of the means to have even basic necessities. It has reportedly downgraded his status from that of a political refugee, a step towards regarding him as a criminal.

Comrade Sison's appeal on the European Court of Human Rights to reverse the Dutch government's refusal to grant him residence permit is now threatened by the European Union's adoption of its own "anti-terrorist" measure. On July 15, 2002, the deputies of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopted a set of guidelines on human rights and the fight against terrorism which severely curtailed civil liberties, much like the US Patriot Act.

Comrade Sison is not a "terrorist." His life as a political activist since his student days is a matter of public knowledge. He figured prominently in the widespread protests against the US' war of agression in Vietnam. He has been a sharp critic of imperialist globalization and the US "war on terrorism". He has acknowledged being the founder of the CPP. A political prisoner during the US-backed Marcos fascist regime, he has been in The Netherlands since 1987 and has been considered by the Dutch highest administrative court, the Raad van State, a political refugee since 1992.

In 1991, he began to serve as senior political consultant of the NDFP panel in the peace negotiations with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines which were held mostly in The Netherlands, Belgium and recently in Norway. He was of great help in the peace negotiations which came up with ten agreements, the most significant of which were The Hague Joint Declaration and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. He also lent an able hand in the resumption of the peace talks between the Macapagal-Arroyo government and the NDFP early last year.

Comrade Sison was one of the early critics of the corrupt and incompetent Estrada regime and an acknowleged voice in the broad mass movement that eventually ousted Estrada. A Johnny-come-lately in that movement, Macapagal-Arroyo was simply lucky to have been the constitutional successor to the ousted president.

Joema, as he is fondly called, is truly a patriot. He deserves the support of the Filipino people and other people the world over who truly cherish national freedom and democracy and are able to see through the lies and deceit of the US "war against terrorism" as it further expands its world domination.



#### OPPOSE THE CAMPAIGN OF REPRESSION AGAINST KA JOEMA SISON!

Statement of Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal Spokesperson, Communist Party of the Philippines September 22, 2002

he Communist Party of the Philippines condemns the intensifying campaign of repression against Comrade Jose Maria Sison and NDFP personnel based in The Netherlands.

First came the freeze order on the Sisons' joint current account where the Dutch government has been depositing the small allowance it has been providing their family in accordance with its recognition of Ka Joema's status as a political refugee since 1992. This was followed by the suspension of government subsidies for housing and health care. The latest blow consisted of stripping Ka Joema of his political refugee status on September 16, a step towards treating him like an ordinary criminal.

All these measures come in the wake of the Dutch government's acquiescence to the US request to put pressure on Ka Joema and NDFP personnel following the US' arbitrary and baseless classification of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army as terrorist organizations.

Beyond this, Ka Joema is in danger of being forcibly arrested by the US government and brought to the US to stand trial under the brutal and ruthless US Patriot Act and in accordance with the Guidelines on Human Rights and Fighting Terrorism issued by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

To imbue this move with a seemingly legal basis, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime is likewise set to file trumped-up rebellion charges against Ka Joema to provide the US with a rationale for requesting his extradition from The Netherlands government.

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the entire revolutionary movement strongly condemn the US for including the CPP-NPA on its list of foreign terrorist organizations and pushing European governments to follow its policy of repression against NDFP personnel in Europe. The CPP likewise condemns the puppet Macapagal-Arroyo government for joining the conspiracy of repression against Ka Joema.

In applying pressure on Ka Joema, who has been a great help in advancing the peace negotiations between

the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the NDFP, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime has no other purpose but to put an end to the peace talks and give full vent to the counterrevolutionary war against the CPP, NPA and the entire Filipino people. The US will likewise be provided with additional rationale for launching direct military intervention in the Philippines.

These are all part of the US' overall objective of crushing anyone who aims to put an end to imperialist exploitation, oppression and brutality that condemn millions of people worldwide to a life of abject poverty and suffering.

It is the height of absurdity to brand as terrorist Ka Joema and others like him who dare to arouse and organize the oppressed peoples of their respective countries against US imperialism and its puppet regimes.

US imperialism is unequivocally the biggest terrorist because its policy of inciting wars and other disorders in the world to save the US economy from crisis and satisfy its greed for superprofits brings death to millions of peoples around the globe. Is this not what the US is now doing to Iraq?

The truth is evident. US imperialism is spreading lies about Ka Joema to cover up its heinous record.

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the entire revolutionary movement call on the Filipino people to oppose in various ways the intensified attacks and campaign of repression being perpetrated by the US government and its puppet, the Macapagal-Arroyo government, against those who wage legitimate struggles for the advancement of the people's rights and welfare. Once the US and its puppet regime are allowed to have their way, Ka Joema will not be the last victim of such suppression.

In particular, we also call on the government of The Netherlands not to deprive Ka Joema of his rights, on just and humanitarian grounds, and not to bow to pressure from US imperialism. We call on The Netherlands government to join the growing ranks of countries the world over that are able to meticulously discern US imperialism's selfish interests and dare to resist the US' desire to run roughshod over the sovereignty of any country in the world.